AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 4 as follows:

The aforesaid pellets becomes appreciably hard after drying and their granular size is

large, usually $5\sim10$ mm so that the effect of reducing shearing power at the initial stage of

kneading is small. In case mutually attaching power of the pellets is strong, the pellets tend to

initiate blocking during storage. Looking at the process for production, therefore, a problem

arises in necessity of a separate step of making the pellets.

Patent literature 1:

U.S. Patent No. 4,482,657

Patent literature 2:

JP-A-11-286577

Patent literature 3:

JP-A-10-231382 <u>JP-A-10-231381</u>

Patent literature 4:

JP-A-2003-113250

Patent literature 5:

JP-A-2000-351847

Patent literature 6:

JP-A-2003-160668

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 12 as follows:

As the liquid containing the cocoagulation product of silica and rubber used in the present

invention, a liquid obtained by mixing silica with a rubber latex and subjecting the mixture to

cocoagulation can be used without any limitation. So far as a method for obtaining a

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cocoagulation product wherein silica is incorporated uniformly into the rubber is concerned, no

limitation exists in methods for obtaining cocoagulation product of silica and rubber, and any of

the known techniques can be applied. For example, the process disclosed in the aforesaid U. S.

Patent 4,482,657, JP-A-11-286577, JP-A-10-231383 <u>JP-A-10-231381</u>, or JP-A-2003-113250 can

be used therefor. More precisely, a process wherein silica is treated with an

alkyltrimethylammonium salt, a silylating agent, an organosilicon compound or a cationic high

molecule to enhance affinity to rubber, and an aqueous suspension of the silica is mixed with the

rubber to effect cocoagulation of the silica and the rubber is mentioned.

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